as the reception from this transmitter, when commissioned, will be without the use of Dish Antenna. The extent of coverage of the proposed transmitter in parts of Southern India cannot be predicted in the absence of details regarding its location and the radiating power.

Doordarshan, however, on their part have taken steps to further expand their service to the uncovered parts of Tamil Nadu in a phased manner. With the commissioning of various transmitters under implementation/proposed to be set up in Tamil Nadu, about 95.5% population of the State is expected to be brought under TV Coverage as against 89.2% population coverage at present.

New Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

5287. SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of new telephone exchanges including RAX to be opened in West Bengal during 1992-93;

(b) the manual exchanges to be automatised; and

(c) the introduction of new state-of art technology in some of the existing exchanges and the linking of various exchanges with STD facilities both within thhe State and outside and the modernisation and upgradation of the exchanges in Calcutta city and to improve the telephone services there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 22 new telephone exchanges including RAXs are proposed to be opened in West Bengal during 1992-93.

(b) 13 manual exchanges are proposed to be automatised during 1992-93.

(c) There is a continuous effort for the introduction of new state-of-art technology, modernisation and upgradation of exchanges in calcutta city. All strowger exchanges and about 84 K lines of cross-bar exchanges are planned to be replaced by improvement of telephone service in Calcutta. STD facility are already available in the city.

Renewable Energy Sources

5288. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether bio-mass is one of the widely and extensively used sources of inexpensive and renewable energy sources;

(b) if so, whether any long-range plan has been formulated to exploit the biomass power technology in the rural areas particularly where rice straw and rice husk and wasted biomass are available in plenty;

(c) whether any such plant is likely to be set up in some of the rural areas of West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details with location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir. Biomass in its various forms is traditionally and most extensiely used sources of energy.

(b) and (c). The VIII plan pending finalisation includes generation of energy and power from variety of biomass including rice straw, rice husk and other biomass wastes available in the country for different